

REMARKS

This Response to Office Action is submitted in response to the Office Action dated October 10, 2002. Claims 1, 3 to 13, 23 to 27, and 29 to 32 are currently pending. Claims 1, 23 and 25 have been amended. Claims 2 and 28 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

A Petition for a Three-Month Extension of Time to Respond to the Office Action is submitted herewith. A check in the amount of \$930.00 is submitted herewith to cover the cost of the of the three-month extension. Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any insufficiency or credit for any overpayment. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current Response. The attached page is captioned "**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made.**"

The Office Action objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a). A submission of corrected formal drawings is attached hereto. The drawings have been amended in accordance with the Office Action's instructions and it is respectfully submitted that the Office Action's objections are now moot.

The Office Action rejected Claims 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 25 has been amended in accordance with the Office Action's instructions. It is respectfully that the Office Action's rejections of Claim 26, which depends from Claim 25, and Claim 25 are now moot, and that these claims are in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by McClernan (U.S. Patent No. 1,079,507).

McClernan discloses a metallic kitchen-cabinet which includes two sections removably interlocked with each other. The two sections are interlocked using channel irons secured to the top and bottom sections. (see Figs. 1-11).

One embodiment of the present invention is directed to a gaming device which includes a component cabinet removably connected to a display cabinet. The display cabinet includes a display device operable with a processor and at least one player input device to enable a player to play a game upon a wager by the player. McClernan does not disclose, teach or suggest the display device included in the display cabinet

which is operable with a processor and at least one player input device to enable a player to initiate a game upon a wager. The present invention also includes side panels wherein each side panel includes a substrate and a decorative layer connected to the substrate. McClernan does not disclose, teach or suggest such side panels which include the substrates and decorative layers connected to the substrates. McClernan cannot anticipate the present invention because McClernan does not disclose, teach or suggest the combination of all of the elements of amended Claim 1 and the claims that depend therefrom.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Carroll (U.S. Patent No. 4,874,210).

Carroll discloses a product display and dispensing unit which includes a plurality of juxtaposed compartments made from body members and side panels. Carroll also discloses pairs of complementary engageable and disengageable elements for engaging and disengaging the side panels and body members. (Col. 1, 50-56).

Carroll does not disclose, teach or suggest the elements of the present invention as described above. For instance, Carroll does not disclose or suggest a display device included in the display cabinet operable with a processor and at least one player input device to enable a player to play a game upon a wager by the player. Carroll also does not disclose or suggest the side panels which include the substrates and the decorative layers connected to said substrates. Carroll cannot anticipate the present invention because Carroll does not disclose or suggest the combination of all of the elements of amended Claim 1 and the claims that depend therefrom.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 12-13, 23, 25, 27 and 29 to 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Krause et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,267,462).

Krause discloses a modular cabinet system wherein a number of modules can be combined to form a unique cabinet configuration. Each side wall of the modules has at least one system hole and at least one system thread positioned so that the holes and threads of one module line up with the holes and threads of another module for assembly. The pre-existing system holes and threads allow the modules to be separated and combined repeatedly. (Abstract).

Krause does not disclose, teach or suggest the elements of the present invention as described above. For instance, Krause does not disclose, teach or suggest a display device included in the display cabinet operable with a processor and at least one player input device to enable a player to play a game upon a wager by the player. Krause also does not disclose or suggest the side panels which include the substrates and the decorative layers connected to said substrates. Krause cannot anticipate the present invention because Krause does not disclose, teach or suggest the combination of all of the elements of the claims rejected over Krause.

The Office Action rejected Claims 24 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krause. Claims 24 and 26 depend from amended Claim 23 which as described above includes elements which are not disclosed or suggested by Krause. As such, Claims 24 and 25 are not obvious in light of Krause because Krause does not teach or suggest all of the elements of amended Claim 23. It is further submitted that components, such as various player input devices, which are integrated in the modular cabinets as described by the present claims are not obvious.

The Office Action rejected Claims 2 to 11 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krause et al. in view of Drabczyk (U.S. Patent No. 5,335,605).

Drabczyk discloses a decorative panel having a smooth exterior surface, and mounted over a structural panel to cover the support ribs and provide a smooth exterior surface to the support members. The decorative panels are replaceable and can be painted in a variety of colors and patterns. Wood grain steel vinyl laminate can also be applied to the decorative panels. (Abstract)

Krause, as described above, does not disclose, teach or suggest all of the elements included in the claimed invention. Drabczyk additionally does not disclose, teach or suggest a processor operable with a display device included in the display cabinet and at least one player input device to enable a player to play a game upon a wager by the player. Krause and Drabczyk do not disclose, teach or suggest these elements which are included in the claimed invention.

It should be appreciated that for over a hundred years, the problems of large, bulky and uniquely sized cabinets existed in both mechanical and electronic gaming devices. The present invention solves these problems.

More specifically, amended Claim 1 is directed to a gaming device which includes a component cabinet, a display cabinet removably connected to the component cabinet, and a display device included in the display cabinet and operable with a processor and at least one player input device to enable a player to play a game upon a wager by the player. The gaming device also includes side panels removably connected to opposite sides of the component cabinet and the display cabinet, wherein each side panel includes a substrate and a decorative layer connected to the substrate. McClernan, Carroll, Krause, Drabczyk, Ward, Fossier and/or Osen do not disclose, teach or suggest the display device included in the display cabinet and operable with the processor and at least one player input device to enable the player to play the game upon the wager by the player. These references also do not teach or disclose the gaming device with side panels including substrates and decorative layers connected to the substrates. It is respectfully submitted that amended Claim 1 is patentably distinguished over these references and is in condition for allowances. It is submitted that Claims 3 to 13 which depend from amended Claim 1 are also patentably distinguished over these references and are in condition for allowance.

Amended Claim 23 is directed to a gaming device which includes a component cabinet, and a plurality of differently sized display cabinets adapted to be removably connected to said component cabinet and adapted to be used with a plurality of differently sized display devices wherein at least one of the display devices is operable with a processor and at least one player input device to enable a player to play at least one game upon a wager by the player. The gaming device also includes a plurality of side panels wherein each side panel includes a substrate and a decorative layer connected to the substrate. McClernan, Carroll, Krause, Drabczyk, Ward, Fossier and/or Osen do not disclose, teach or suggest the display device included in the display cabinet and operable with the processor and at least one player input device to enable the player to play the game upon the wager by the player. These references also do not teach or disclose the gaming device with side panels including substrates and decorative layers connected to the substrates. It is respectfully submitted that amended Claim 23 is patentably distinguished over these references and is in condition for allowances. It is submitted that Claims 24 to 27, and 29 to 32 which depend from

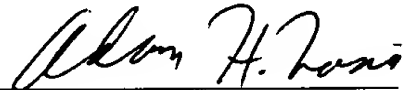
amended Claim 23 are also patentably distinguished over these references and are in condition for allowance.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for allowance and is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions related to this Response, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner contact the Applicants' attorney, Adam Masia at (312) 807-4284, to discuss this Response.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam H. Masia", is written over a horizontal line.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

The paragraph beginning at page 7, line 19 has been amended as follows:

The present invention is adapted to facilitate the manufacture, modification and repair of gaming devices of different sizes. Referring now to the drawings, and particularly to Figs. 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7, one embodiment of the gaming device 10a of the present invention includes a display or first cabinet or housing 12 which is adapted to receive a display 14 (shown in Fig. 1 with a display and in Figs. 5 without a display) and a component or second cabinet or housing 16 adapted to receive all of the other components (~~not shown~~) of the gaming device. Such components include the gaming device electronic components or controls (such as the CPU, RAM, ROM, power supply and sound card), player interfaces 2 (such as a coin slot, a bill acceptor, a reader or validator for credit cards or debit cards, a player card reader), player input devices 4 (such as a keypad, a play button, a bet display, a bet one button a cashout button), a coin hopper or payout tray 6, a ticket printer (thermal or impact), smart card read/write dispenser, vacuum fluorescent display and speakers. All of the components of the gaming device 10a except the display 14 are mounted in or connected to the component cabinet 16 to facilitate independent manufacture of the component cabinet 16 (without dependence on the game theme or scheme). This enhances the overall manufacturing process for gaming devices.

In the Claims:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A gaming device comprising:

a component cabinet;

a display cabinet removably connected to said component cabinet;

a display device included in said display cabinet and operable with a processor
and at least one player input device to enable a player to play a game upon a wager by
the player; and

side panels removably connected to opposite sides of said component cabinet
and said display cabinet, wherein each side panel includes a substrate and a decorative
layer connected to the substrate.

Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 23 has been amended as follows:

23. (Amended) A gaming device comprising:

a component cabinet; ~~and~~

a plurality of differently sized display cabinets adapted to be removably connected to said component cabinet and adapted to be used with a plurality of differently sized display devices wherein at least one of the display devices is operable with a processor and at least one player input device to enable a player to play at least one game upon a wager by the player; and

a plurality of side panels wherein each side panel includes a substrate and a decorative layer connected to the substrate.

Claim 25 has been amended as follows:

25. (Amended) The gaming device of Claim 23, wherein a plurality of ~~the~~ components of the gaming device except the display device are adapted to be connected to or stored in the component ~~display~~ cabinet.

Claim 28 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.